



Northumberland
County Council

**Draft Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan
(Submission Version, November 2021)**

**Strategic Environmental
Assessment (SEA)**

Screening Opinion

FINAL

Prepared by the Neighbourhood Planning Team, Northumberland County
Council

November 2021

Revision history

| Version | Revision date | Details | Name | Position |
|---------|---------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------|
| V.1.0 | May 2021 | Screening Opinion based on the draft Haydon Neighbourhood Plan (April 2021) | Sarah Brannigan | Senior Planning Officer |
| V.2.0 | June 2021 | Modified Screening Opinion to take account of responses from Consultation Bodies and a revised draft of the Haydon Neighbourhood Plan (May 2021) | Sarah Brannigan | Senior Planning Officer |
| V.3.0 | July 2021 | Modified Screening Opinion to take account of a revised draft of the Haydon Neighbourhood Plan (July 2021) | Sarah Brannigan | Senior Planning Officer |
| V.4.0 | November 2021 | Final Screening Opinion on submitted plan (November 2021). | Sarah Brannigan | Senior Planning Officer |

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Summary of Screening Opinion

1. Haydon Parish Council, as the qualifying body, is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Haydon administrative parish area. The Plan seeks to address a number of local issues around sustainability, housing need, design, the natural and built environment, and transport. It will be 'made' by Northumberland County Council and the Northumberland National Park Authority as the local planning authorities, and will form part of the statutory development plan for the area.
2. Based on the characteristics of the draft Haydon Neighbourhood Plan and the area characteristics, the conclusion of the SEA Screening, in the opinion of Northumberland County Council, is the plan is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment and SEA is therefore not required.
3. This opinion is supported by the statutory consultation bodies, that is: the Environment Agency; Historic England; and Natural England. Their representations can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.
4. This screening opinion has been revised three times to reflect minor modifications made to the draft plan.

In the May 2021 version of the Plan:

- Policy H8: Haydon bridge Conservation Area - Specific heritage assets are now identified in the policy
- Policy H11: Green Infrastructure - Identifies green infrastructure within Haydon Bridge
- Policy H15: Land west of Langley Gardens and north of Ratcliffe Road - The Policy sets out criteria for the development of the site
- Policy H16: Community services and facilities - The garage has been removed from the list of facilities and an additional paragraph added that identifies locally-important services

In the July 2021 version of the Plan:

- Policy H8: Haydon bridge Conservation Area - the heritage assets identified in the policy have been re-numbered
- Policy H12: Local Green Space – one LGS (LGS01 Land south of Belmont Gardens and west of Belmont) has been deleted from this policy
- Policy H13: Protected Open Space – a new area of POS has been identified (POS06 Land south of Belmont Gardens and west of Belmont)

In the Submission November 2021 version of the Plan, in addition to minor modifications to policies for the purposes of clarification:

- Policy H7: Heritage Assets – has been deleted (and subsequent policies re-numbered)
 - Policy H12: Protected open space – a new area of POS has been identified (Land to the rear of 30-48 Ratcliffe Road)
5. It is the opinion of Northumberland County Council that these are very minor modifications that do not change the conclusion of the SEA Screening. Therefore, it is not necessary to re-consult the statutory consultation bodies.

1. Introduction

Neighbourhood Planning

- 1.1 Neighbourhood Plans are prepared by a qualifying body under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). The Haydon Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared by Haydon Parish Council (as the 'qualifying body') and will be 'made' by Northumberland County Council and the Northumberland National Park Authority as the local planning authorities.
- 1.2 The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans is subject to The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012 (and subsequent amendments) and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017.
- 1.3 Communities have a right to be able to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. However, communities are not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative purposes to produce such a plan.
- 1.4 Haydon Parish Council is devising a Neighbourhood Plan for the Haydon administrative parish area. Once 'made' it will form part of the statutory development plan for the area.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.5 To be 'made', a neighbourhood plan must meet certain Basic Conditions¹ including compliance with EU obligations. One such obligation is the assessment of the effects of the plan on the environment. The procedures to be followed in determining whether a plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment are set out in European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (the 'SEA Directive'), which is transposed into UK legislation through The Environmental Assessment of Plans and programmes Regulations 2004 (the 'SEA Regulations').
- 1.6 The purpose of the SEA Directive is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to integrate considerations of the environment into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development.

¹ These are set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and in the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations (2012) (as amended).

- 1.7 The SEA Regulations sets out criteria for assessing the significance of the impact of a plan or programme on the environment. Any assessment must consider both positive and negative effects.
- 1.8 In the first instance, it is necessary to ascertain if SEA is required. This process is referred to as 'screening'.
- 1.9 This report presents the findings of an SEA screening opinion on the draft Haydon Neighbourhood Plan, provided by Northumberland County Council as the Local Planning Authority and responsible authority for the purposes of the SEA Regulations. It adopts a proportionate approach in applying a series of criteria, as set out in Schedule 1 the SEA Regulations, to look at the draft Haydon Neighbourhood Plan and determine whether any significant effects are likely.
- 1.10 This report will be sent to statutory consultation bodies, that is: the Environment Agency; Historic England; and Natural England, in order to seek their views on its conclusions. On completion of consultation, a determination can be made.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

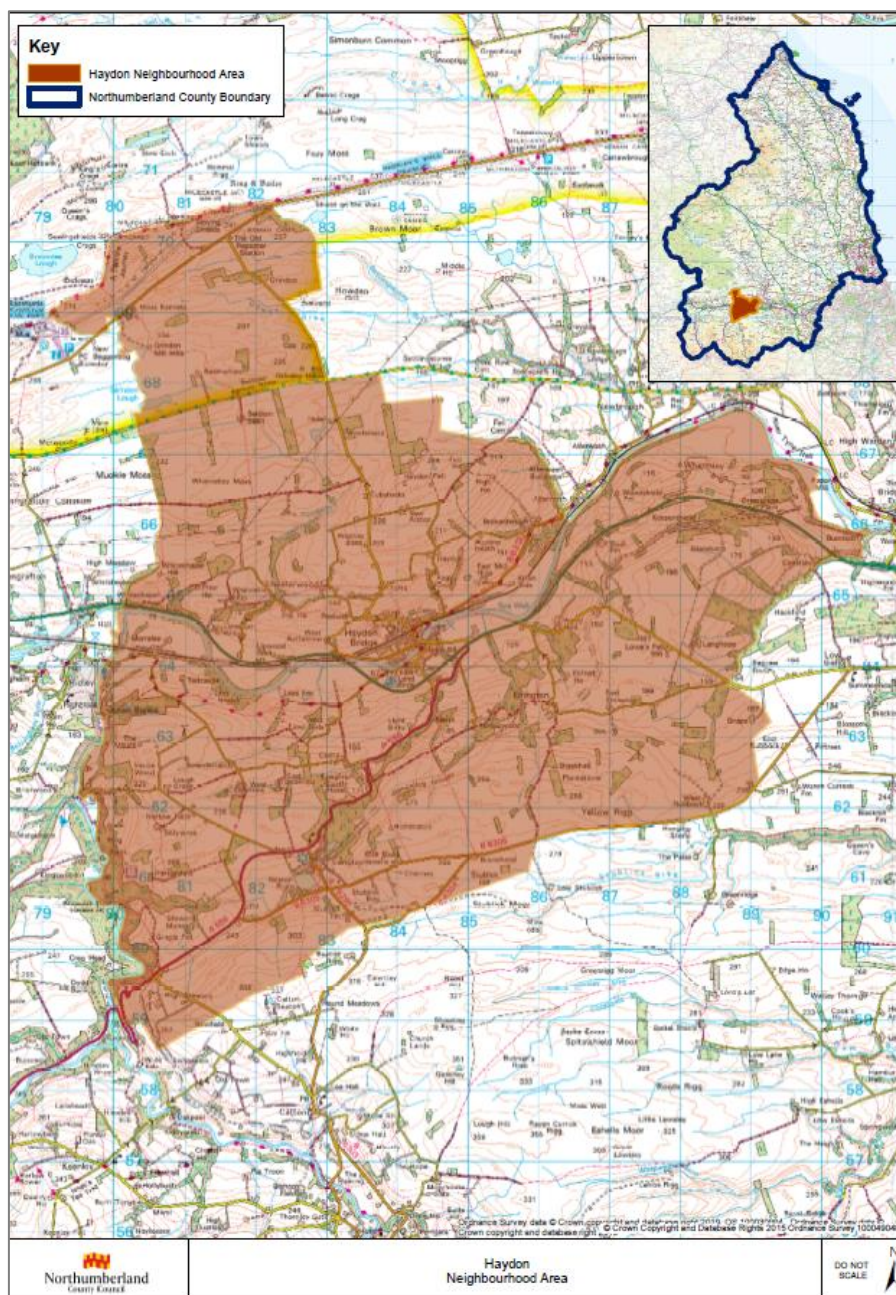
- 1.11 A Neighbourhood Plan could potentially have impacts on sites covered by the Habitats Regulations. The Haydon Neighbourhood Plan is subject to a separate HRA screening assessment to ascertain whether an Appropriate Assessment is required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which relate to Articles 6(3) and (4) of the European Union Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna (the 'Habitats Directive').
- 1.12 A screening opinion has been provided confirming that appropriate assessment under the Habitats Regulations is not required.

2. Haydon Draft Neighbourhood Plan

The Haydon Neighbourhood Area

2.1 Haydon Parish is a rural parish in the west of the County. The Neighbourhood Area covers the entire civil parish of Haydon (figure 1) and crosses the administrative boundaries of Northumberland County Council and the Northumberland National Park Authority. The Park Authority has agreed that the County Council will be the lead authority to handle neighbourhood planning in Haydon Parish.

Figure 1. The Haydon Neighbourhood Area



The Draft Haydon Neighbourhood Plan

Vision and Objectives

- 2.2 The vision sets out what the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan intends to achieve over the plan period to 2036. It informs all of the plan objectives and draft planning policies.

Haydon Parish will be a great place for all generations to live, work and flourish both now and in the future. It will be a successful sustainable community committed to addressing climate change. It will have a distinct identity, which attracts a growing number of visitors to Haydon Bridge and surrounding countryside to support the local economy.

- 2.3 To deliver the vision, seven objectives have been developed:

i. Sustainability and climate change

Focusing the majority of development within the settlement boundary and ensuring all new development is sustainable and takes a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change. This includes:

- Embedding a commitment to sustainable design, construction and use;
- Fully understanding and addressing the current and future implications of flood risk;
- Contributing to reducing the carbon footprint of the parish;
- Prioritising energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in existing as well as new development and reducing fuel poverty.

ii. Built and historic environment

Ensuring new development, including alterations to dwellings, meet the requirements of the Haydon Parish Design Code, reduce our carbon footprint, Omake a positive contribution to the historic and built environment of the parish, and respect and protect our heritage, including preserving and enhancing the significance of the conservation area, as well as protecting our designated and non-designated heritage assets.

iii. Natural environment

Protecting and enhancing the distinctive character of Haydon Parish, especially in relation to the landscape. Planning positively for the creation, protection and enhancement of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. Safeguarding spaces that are important to the community and the character of the area. Encouraging and supporting community lead projects that enable Haydon Parish to both reduce its carbon footprint and enhance biodiversity.

- iv. **Housing**
Supporting housing developments which maintain and strengthen the role of Haydon Bridge as a service centre whilst protecting the important rural character of the area.
- v. **Vibrant and thriving community**
Retaining, protecting and enhancing our valued community facilities, reducing the need to travel outside Haydon Parish and thus reducing our carbon emissions. Protecting and enhancing the village centre as a service centre, through supporting and encouraging local businesses to thrive and new businesses to emerge, thereby making Haydon Parish more resilient to global shocks.
- vi. **Local economy**
Supporting the economy of the plan area, including the expansion of existing businesses and attraction of new businesses to the parish, thereby reducing the distance of travel to work and the level of carbon emissions. Encouraging businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and welcoming businesses in the parish that actively sequester carbon and increase biodiversity.
- vii. **Accessibility and transport**
Developing the transport network in the plan to:
 - Be equipped for the era of electric cars and bicycles;
 - Improve accessibility for all across the parish, particularly between the settlements in the north and south;
 - Improve accessibility and safety of routes to neighbouring towns east and west, enabling the transition away from fossil fuels through dedicated non car routes;
 - Enhance opportunities for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and those with disabilities; and
 - Mitigate the impact of traffic in Haydon Bridge.

Draft planning policies

2.4 There are twenty draft planning policies to deliver the objectives:

Sustainability and climate change

- i. **Policy H1: Sustainable development**
To ensure that development is sustainable, this policy sets out a number of criteria that should be met by all development proposals.

- ii. Policy H2: Sustainable location of new development
This policy seeks to direct development to sites within the settlement boundary defined for Haydon Bridge in the emerging Northumberland Local Plan. Proposals for residential and other development outside settlement boundaries will not be supported unless certain, stated circumstances apply.
- iii. Policy H3: Embedding energy efficiency and renewable energy
This policy is supportive of proposals that embed a commitment to sustainable design and construction, particularly those which reduce the need for reliance on carbon.
- iv. Policy H4: Community energy and renewable energy technologies
This policy supports renewable and low carbon energy generation developments that are led by or meet the needs of local communities. Proposals for individual and community scale renewable energy developments will be supported where they accord with a number of criteria, as relevant.
- v. Policy H5: Flood prevention and alleviation
This policy supports flood prevention and alleviation schemes, where it has been demonstrated that the development represents the most sustainable solution and that their social, economic and environmental benefits outweigh any adverse impacts caused by new structure(s) including the risk of flooding elsewhere.

Built and historic environment

- vi. Policy H6: Design
This policy supports high quality design and sets out a list of criteria which should be met by all new developments, where appropriate, in order to conserve and enhance local distinctiveness.
- vii. Policy H7: Haydon Bridge Conservation Area
This policy is supportive of proposed developments that preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the conservation area and its setting.

Natural environment

- viii. Policy H8: Landscape
This policy seeks to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance positive elements of the landscape character of the Parish. It sets out a number of criteria that should be met by new development.

- ix. Policy H9: Biodiversity
This policy seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity and prevent significant harm to sites of biodiversity value, protected or priority species their habitats or the corridors that connect them. The policy also seeks a 10% biodiversity net gain from development.
- x. Policy H10: Green infrastructure
This policy seeks to protect and where practical, improve and extend the green infrastructure network, as defined on the policies map.
- xi. Policy H11: Local green space
This policy designates a number of Local Green Spaces within the Neighbourhood Area.
- xii. Policy H12: Protected open space
This policy designates a number of Protected Open Spaces within the Neighbourhood Area.

Housing

- xiii. Policy H13: Meeting housing needs
This policy sets out the requirement for the mix of housing types and tenure of new housing development to have regard to and be informed by evidence of housing needs.
- xiv. Policy H14: Land west of Langley Gardens and north of Ratcliffe Road
This policy is supportive of proposals for this site that reflect the criteria set out in the site masterplan.

Vibrant and thriving communities

- xv. Policy H15: Community services and facilities
This policy supports development proposals that would enhance the provision of community services and facilities, subject to a number of criteria. It also sets out criteria that must be met by development proposals that would result in the loss of a building or land which provide a community service or facility.
- xvi. Policy H16: Haydon Bridge village centre
This policy supports development would help to diversify and enhance the range of local shops and services within Haydon Bridge Village Centre, as defined on the policies map.

Local economy

- xvii. Policy H17: Tourism
This policy seeks to direct tourism development to Haydon Bridge. Outside the settlement boundary, proposals for tourism development must meet a number of criteria.

- xviii. Policy H18: Agriculture
This policy supports new development that would support the agricultural industry subject to certain restrictions.

Accessibility and transport

- xix. Policy H19: Sustainable transport and new development
This policy states that, where appropriate, development should be designed and located to maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport.

- xx. Policy H20: Walking and cycling network
This policy is supportive of proposals to improve or extend the walking and cycling network within the neighbourhood. It aims to protect the active travel routes identified on the policies map from development unless it provides replacement walking and cycling infrastructure.

3. Baseline Information

Context

- 3.1 Haydon is a rural parish situated in the South Tyne Valley west of Hexham. Most of the population lives in the main settlement, Haydon Bridge. This settlement is within the commuting influence of Tyneside but its main role is as a local housing and service centre for its immediate surroundings. The A69 trunk road between Newcastle upon Tyne and Carlisle, runs east-west through the Parish.

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

- 3.2 A number of SSSIs lie within the Neighbourhood Area. Stawardpeel Woods SSSI, a mixed woodland, supports the only known population of dormice in Northumberland and is actively managed for this species. Its condition is recorded as 'unfavourable recovering'. Hexhamshire Moors SSSI – Nubbock Fell is an area of dry heath with patches of blanket bog. Its condition is recorded as 'unfavourable recovering'. Muckle Moss SSSI is a lowland peat bog with good species diversity. Its condition is recorded as 'favourable'. The Whin Sill is also designated as a geological SSSI known as the Roman Wall Escarpments SSSI and supports unusual grasslands. Its condition is recorded as 'favourable'.
- 3.3 There are two European Sites within the Neighbourhood Area. Border Mires SAC, an area of predominantly bogs and marshes lies in the north western portion of the Parish, close to the border with the National Park. The North Pennine Moors SPA extends a short way into the southern section of the Parish.
- 3.4 The Parish also contains a number of priority habitats, including ancient and semi-natural woodland and deciduous woodland along the River Allen, and calaminarian grassland associated with old mine workings.

Issue: 'unfavourable recovering' status of two SSSIs.

Population and human health

- 3.5 The 2011 census recorded a parish population of 2,184. This represents an increase of 7.8% on the 2,027 recorded in 2001. The age structure in the resident population has changed: the proportion of both young and elderly dependents has fallen whilst the proportion of working age residents has risen. This is in contrast to the County as a whole, which has an ageing population. Going forwards, however, the trend is likely to match the rest of the County: in 2001, the average of residents in the Parish was 41.46 years; in 2011, the figure was 43.5 years.
- 3.6 The proportion of Haydon's population that is economically active increased between 2001 and 2011. At 75.4% (2011), the figure was higher than the

averages for Northumberland and for England as a whole. In addition, the Parish has a significantly greater proportion of self-employed residents. The levels of qualification within the resident population are on a par with the Northumberland and England averages.

- 3.7 Overall, Parish residents do not suffer from higher levels of deprivation. Figures for income, employment, education, health, and crime are fair to good. The outdoor living environment scores highly, however, quality of housing is lower than elsewhere. Similarly, geographical barriers mean that access to services is not as good as elsewhere in the County. In the 2011 Census the health of Haydon residents was considered to be on a par with Northumberland and England.

Issues: Ageing population, lower quality of housing, less favourable access to services.

Climatic Factors

- 3.8 No emissions data is available for the Neighbourhood Area. At the local authority level, detailed information is available for Carbon Dioxide (CO²). The main source of CO² emissions in Northumberland is now transport, which has shown only a very marginal reduction since 2005. By contrast, emissions from industrial and commercial sources have more than halved in the same time. Domestic emissions have also decreased albeit from a lower starting point. As a result, total emissions in Northumberland decreased by 40% between 2005 and 2017. The trend overall, therefore, is downwards though transport emissions remain problematic.

- 3.9 Car ownership levels in the Parish have remained largely the same in recent years. At 75% the proportion of households having one or two cars is higher than the County average (70%) and significantly higher than for the Country as a whole (67%). This reflects the location of the Parish relative to major employment hubs and the largely rural nature of the area.

Issue: CO² emissions from transport.

Soil

- 3.10 The strip of land either side of the South Tyne is grade 3 Agricultural land, i.e. good to moderate quality agricultural land. Heading north and south of the river valley, the quality of agricultural land deteriorates to grade 4 (poor) and grade 5 (very poor).

Issue: N/A.

Water

- 3.11 The Kielder Water Resource Zone (WRZ) serves the Neighbourhood Area. There is a large surplus of supply over demand in the Kielder WRZ and the area is not classed as seriously water stressed.
- 3.12 There are no Groundwater Source Protection Zones in the area indicating that there is little risk of contamination from activities that might cause groundwater pollution in the area.
- 3.13 The River Allen and the stretch of the South Tyne from the Allen to the confluence with the North Tyne at Hexham, are classed as moderate for water quality. The main issue preventing the waters reaching good status is pollution from abandoned mines.
- 3.14 The area adjacent to the South Tyne is at medium-high risk of flooding (this means that each year the chance of flooding is between 1% and 3.3%). In addition, the same flood risk exists on the River Allen that flows northwards along the western edge of the Parish to join the Tyne, just west of Haydon Bridge.
- 3.15 Much of Haydon Bridge is in flood zone 3. Areas further from the river, including the village centre lie in flood zone 2. The village has suffered from severe flooding in the past, including in 2016, when 50 residential buildings and 8 businesses were affected. Surface water and a smaller watercourse contributed to the flooding experienced. The Environment Agency has carried out erosion repair works on the north and south banks of the South Tyne, and has made repairs to flood walls at several points in the village. Northumbrian Water is currently undertaking a Stage Two Northumbria Integrated Drainage Partnership study in Haydon Bridge to reduce the community's risk of flooding from all sources.

Issues: 'Moderate' water quality of Allen and Tyne, flood risk in Haydon Bridge.

Air

- 3.16 As of June 2018, the Haydon Neighbourhood Area has no recorded Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), and air quality is not automatically monitored anywhere within the Neighbourhood Area as part of the annual screening process carried out by Northumberland County Council. Since the opening of the A69 bypass in 2009, traffic volume within Haydon bridge has fallen by almost three-quarters from approximately 12,500 vehicles per day to around 3,000. There are no significant and tangible air quality issues in the Neighbourhood Area.

Issue: N/A.

Material Assets

3.17 Most of the community facilities and services are located in the main village, Haydon Bridge. The settlement has a GP surgery and pharmacy, post office, community centre and village hall, shops including a supermarkets, newsagents and a butcher, pubs, restaurants and takeaways, a primary school and a high school that serves the wider area, library, churches and church halls, garage, and a hotel and visitor accommodation. The village has extensive green space provision. Allotments are available to rent in the village and a wide range of sporting and leisure pursuits are available. The village is well served by public transport with east-west rail and bus connections; however, routes north and south of the settlement are less well covered. National Cycle Route 72 runs west-east through the northern part of the Neighbourhood Area (through Roman Wall country) but a connection to Haydon Bridge is lacking.

Issue: Transport routes north and south of Haydon Bridge are less well covered.

Heritage Assets

3.18 The Parish is rich in heritage. Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site (WHS) extends along the northern edge of the Parish, and its buffer zone covers the northern-most third of the Parish. Within the WHS, and apart from the wall itself, there are four scheduled monuments, the remains of temporary Roman camps. Other scheduled monuments include the early post-medieval multi-span bridge at Haydon Bridge, the Bastles at Chesterwood, and the remains of Stublick Colliery on the southern edge of the Parish.

3.19 The older, mostly stone-built part of Haydon Bridge is designated as a Conservation Area. It has a distinct eighteenth and nineteenth century character. Of the 58 listed buildings in the Neighbourhood Area, 2 are grade I listed (Haydon Old Church and Langley Castle), 3 are grade II* (Church of St. Cuthbert, Old Coal Mine Buildings SE of Stublick Farmhouse and High Staward Farmhouse) 53 are grade II.

3.20 Six of these historic features appear on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register, including part of the WHS and grade I and II* listed structures.

Issue: Heritage assets at risk.

Landscape

3.21 The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) encompasses the south western corner of the Neighbourhood Area. The northern part of the Parish, north of the Stanegate, is part of the Northumberland National Park.

- 3.22 The Parish lies in the Tyne Gap and Hadrian's Wall National Character Area (NCA), a narrow but distinctive lowland corridor, centred on the river Tyne, which runs through a gap in the Pennine uplands, which are visible to the north and south. The flanks of the South Tyne are characterised by undulating farmed land, where fields are generally large and bounded by hedges. There are prominent blocks of coniferous or mixed woodland. At higher elevations, semi-improved, pastoral landscapes covered with rough moorland are associated with the classic cuesta landscape of the Whin Sill.
- 3.23 The landscape retains its rural character and a high degree of naturalness despite its relatively high population and importance as a communications corridor. It is a landscape under pressure from further development.

Issue: Pressure for further development

4. SEA Screening

- 4.1 Criteria for determining the likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from plans and programmes are set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations. The criteria are split into two categories: those relating to the characteristics of the plan and those relating to the characteristics of the effects and areas likely to be affected.² An assessment of the draft Haydon Neighbourhood Plan (April 2021) against these criteria is set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Assessment of the likelihood of significant effects on the environment

| Criteria (Schedule 1) | Significant Environmental Effect likely? | |
|---|--|---|
| | Yes/No | Comment |
| The characteristics of the plan, having regard to: | | |
| (a) the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources. | No | The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate land for residential or other forms development. Once made, the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory development plan for Haydon Parish and will be used in conjunction with the emerging Northumberland Local Plan (once it has been adopted) and the Northumberland National Park Local Plan (adopted July 2020) to determine planning applications in the area. |
| (b) the degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy. | No | Due to the locally-specific nature of the policies, the effects of the Neighbourhood Plan on other plans and programmes within the wider development plan will be slight. Its policies are in general conformity with strategic policies in the existing development plan (Tynedale Local Development Framework Core Strategy, 2007 and the 'saved' policies of the Tynedale District Local Plan, 2000), and with policies proposed in the emerging Northumberland Local Plan and the Northumberland National Park Local Plan (adopted July 2020). The Plan has been prepared having regard to national planning policies and guidance. |

² Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Annex II Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042&from=EN>

| Criteria (Schedule 1) | Significant Environmental Effect likely? | |
|--|--|---|
| | Yes/No | Comment |
| (c) the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development. | No | <p>One of the Basic Conditions which the Neighbourhood Plan must meet is to contribute to sustainable development.</p> <p>Policy H1 sets out a clear intention to consider sustainable development in the determination of planning applications.</p> |
| (d) environmental problems relevant to the plan | No | <p>The draft Plan seeks to address the following environmental problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change, including flood risk as a priority and reducing the carbon footprint of the Parish; • Tackling the reliance of most households in the parish on fossil fuels to heat their homes, and supporting ways of moving to green energy options; • Providing more affordable housing and housing for specific groups, in particular older households and people needing starter homes; • Better and more accessible transport links, including cycleways, footpaths and byways linking different areas of the parish and links to other local towns; • Protecting leisure, recreation and other green space areas; • Enhancing the landscape and biodiversity in the Parish for future generations; • Protection and enhancement of community facilities and services – in particular for older people and young people. |
| (e) the relevance of the plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection). | No | <p>Neighbourhood plans cannot contain policies or proposals in respect of waste management since this is 'excluded development' by virtue of the Planning Acts. The Neighbourhood Plan has no particular relevance for the implementation of other Community legislation, apart from its limited association with legislation designed to ensure continued protection of European designated sites.</p> |

| Criteria (Schedule 1) | Significant Environmental Effect likely? | |
|--|--|---|
| | Yes/No | Comment |
| The characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard to: | | |
| <p>(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.</p> | No | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2021-2036. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate land for development. Instead, it sets out policies supporting the delivery of residential and other forms of development subject to their accordance with other policy requirements. Effects of the Plan are expected to be indirect (due to not allocating sites) but long-term and permanent.</p> <p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna</p> <p>Policy H1 seeks to ensure that development protects and enhances biodiversity and the natural environment. Policy H2 directs new development to sites within Haydon Bridge. Policy H9 requires that development should seek to ensure no loss or significant harm to sites of biodiversity value, protected and priority species, their habitats or the corridors that connect them. It also asks that proposals should demonstrate how a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gains will be achieved. Policy H10 requires that development proposals show how they protect and where practical, improve and extend the green infrastructure network. Policy H11 designates local green spaces. Policy H12 designates protected open spaces.</p> <p>These policies taken together are likely to give some support to the status of sites of biodiversity value, and some protection and enhancement of habitats, including for priority species. In this way, they are likely to have a less than significant effect on protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the Neighbourhood Area.</p> <p>Population and human health</p> <p>By supporting the provision of a range of house types and sizes to meet the needs of all sectors of the community, including older people, policy H13 is</p> |

| Criteria (Schedule 1) | Significant Environmental Effect likely? | |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| | Yes/No | Comment |
| | | <p>likely to have a less than positive effect on housing stock.</p> <p>By supporting enhancements to the current housing stock, policy H14 is likely to have a less than significant positive effect on housing quality.</p> <p>Policies H15, H16 and H17 are likely to have a less than significant positive effect on access to services by supporting the provision of local services and facilities.</p> <p>Climatic Factors</p> <p>Policies H3 and H4 may help to reduce CO² emissions as they support energy efficient development and renewable and low carbon energy generation.</p> <p>Policy H5 supports flood prevention and alleviation schemes subject to certain conditions.</p> <p>Policy H2 may help to reduce CO² emissions by directing new development to sites within Haydon Bridge, which could help to reduce private vehicle use locally.</p> <p>Policies H15, H16, H19 and H20 may help to reduce CO² emissions as they advocate measures that could reduce private vehicle use locally through support for local facilities and development to diversify and enhance the range of local shops and services within Haydon Bridge, the use of sustainable modes of transport and proposals to improve or extend the walking and cycling network locally.</p> <p>Taken together, these policies are likely to have a less than significant positive effect on reducing the level of contribution to climate change and supporting the resilience of the community to the potential effects of climate change.</p> <p>Soil</p> |

| Criteria (Schedule 1) | Significant Environmental Effect likely? | |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| | Yes/No | Comment |
| | | <p>The Plan is unlikely to have a significant positive or negative effect on soil quality.</p> <p>Water</p> <p>The Plan is unlikely to have a significant positive or negative effect on water quality of the rivers Allen and South Tyne.</p> <p>Policy H5 would likely have a less than significant positive effect on flood risk in Haydon Bridge by supporting flood prevention and alleviation schemes subject to certain conditions.</p> <p>Air</p> <p>Policies H19 and H20 are likely to have a less than significant positive effect on air quality in the Neighbourhood Area as they support, indirectly, a reduction in private vehicle use via the increased use of sustainable modes of transport and proposals to improve or extend the walking and cycling network locally.</p> <p>Material Assets</p> <p>Policies H15 and H16 are likely to have a less than significant positive effect on access to local services and facilities as, subject to conditions, they support the provision and retention of such services, and the diversification and enhancement of local shops and services within Haydon Bridge.</p> <p>Heritage Assets</p> <p>Policy H6 supports high quality design which respects existing character and which has regard to the requirements of the Haydon Parish Design Code. This would help to support the integrity of the historic environment.</p> |

| Criteria (Schedule 1) | Significant Environmental Effect likely? | |
|---|--|---|
| | Yes/No | Comment |
| | | <p>Policy H7 supports development that preserves or enhances the character or appearance of the conservation area and its setting. The policy sets out locally specific considerations that would be used to assess the impact of development on the conservation area and its setting. This would help to ensure that development within or affecting the conservation area is sympathetic to its surroundings.</p> <p>Taken together, these policies are likely to have a less than significant positive impact on the character and quality of the historic environment in the Neighbourhood Area.</p> <p>Landscape</p> <p>Policy H2 directs new development to sites within Haydon Bridge and specifies that any development proposed in the countryside must be sensitive to its surroundings.</p> <p>Policy H8 asks that development maintains and where appropriate enhances positive elements of the landscape character of the Parish.</p> <p>Taken together, these policies are likely to have a less than significant positive impact on landscape by supporting the integrity of the landscape in the Neighbourhood Area and by helping to conserve and enhance landscape features.</p> |
| (b) the cumulative nature of the effects | | <p>It is unlikely that any significant environmental effects would be observed as a result of the policies contained within the draft Haydon Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan does not seek to facilitate a level of development above that of higher-level documents within the Development Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan supports sustainable development, which would protect and enhance the built and natural environment. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan would result in significant effects, whether in isolation or cumulatively.</p> |

| Criteria (Schedule 1) | Significant Environmental Effect likely? | |
|---|--|---|
| | Yes/No | Comment |
| (c) the transboundary nature of the effects | | N/A |
| (d) the risks to human health or the environment. | No | There are no anticipated risks to human health or the environment from the Neighbourhood Plan. |
| (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected). | | The population of the Parish is currently 2,184. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development, and whilst it will help to shape future development, the overall extent of future development is likely to be in line with the growth that would occur in the Parish without the Plan. There are no significant effects as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan. |
| (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; • exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; • intensive land-use; | No | <p>The baseline information for the Parish has been described in Section 3.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Area contains a number of internationally and nationally important environmental assets including SSSIs, European Sites, a WHS, scheduled monuments, listed buildings and a conservation area. This makes the area highly valued but also sensitive and potentially vulnerable to disturbance and to change. The risk to their status and condition from implementation of the Plan is judged to be low.</p> |
| (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status | No | The North Pennines AONB covers the south western corner of the Neighbourhood Area. The northern part of the Parish, north of the Stanegate, is part of the Northumberland National Park. Given the content of the Neighbourhood Plan and its focus on sustainable development, which is sympathetic to the qualities of the area, significant effects resulting from the Plan are unlikely. |

5. SEA Screening Conclusion

- 5.1 On the basis of the assessment of the likely significance of effects on the environment of implementing the Plan as set out in Table 1 of this Screening Opinion, the conclusion is:

In the opinion of Northumberland County Council, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations, Haydon Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have any significant positive or negative effects on the environment. Therefore, Strategic Environmental Assessment is NOT required for the Haydon Neighbourhood Plan.

- 5.2 This conclusion is supported by the statutory consultation bodies.

Appendix 1: Responses received from Consultation Bodies

Date: 13 May 2021
Our ref: 352481
Your ref: Haydon Neighbourhood Plan - Consultation on Strategic
Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion



NeighbourhoodPlanning@northumberland.gov.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir/Madam

Haydon Neighbourhood Plan - Consultation on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 07 May 2021 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan. The Haydon Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any sites for development and as such, we are in agreement that Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. Should the Neighbourhood Plan decide to allocate sites for development, this opinion may need to be revised.

Neighbourhood Plan

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in light of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), is contained within the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#). The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact me on cameron.chandler@naturalengland.org.uk. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Cameron Chandler
Northumbria Area Team



Historic England

Ms Sarah Brannigan
Northumberland County Council
Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure
Planning Services
County Hall, Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]
Our ref: PL00748963

18 May 2021

Dear Ms Brannigan

**Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004: Regulation 9
Haydon Neighbourhood Plan: SEA Screening Opinion, April 2021**

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the above Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion. As the public body that advises on England's historic environment, we are pleased to offer our comments.

Based on the analysis set out in the Screening Opinion, and within the areas of interest to Historic England, we agree that the emerging plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects and, therefore, it does not need SEA. In coming to this view we have taken the following factors into consideration:

- The plan area contains many heritage assets including part of a world heritage site, a conservation area, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, and the potential for non-designated assets.]
- Heritage assets are fragile and irreplaceable and can be damaged by change through development both directly and indirectly by development in their setting.
- The plan is not expected to allocate sites for development.

As such, from the perspective of our area of interest, the need for SEA of the draft plan can be screened out as it is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects. However, the views of the other two statutory consultees should be taken into account before you conclude on whether SEA is needed. According to Regulation 11 of the above Regulations, I look forward to receiving a copy of your determination in this case.

We reserve the right to review our opinion should the plan change materially in its content and direction. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries relating to our comments or would like any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Jules Brown



BESSIE SURTEES HOUSE 41-44 SANDHILL NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE1 3JF

Telephone 0191 269 1255
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

creating a better place



Ms Sarah Brannigan
Northumberland County Council
Planning Strategy
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

Our ref: NA/2009/103757/SE-28/SC1-
L01
Your ref: N/A
Date: 27 May 2021

Dear Sarah,

Haydon Neighbourhood Plan. Consultation on Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion.

The Environment Agency, together with other bodies in England and Wales, is a statutory consultee in the SEA process. We must be consulted by plan-makers (or "responsible authorities") at certain key stages. We appreciate that a neighbourhood development plan may require a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) under the Directive and early SEA screening is advised.

The Environment Agency may be able to assist the Local Planning Authority at this stage by advising on whether your plan will result in significant environmental impacts within our remit. However please note that we do not advise on whether the plan falls under the requirements of the SEA Directive.

We do not consider that the proposed plan would result in significant environmental impacts. Please note, we have only provided these comments in respect to our remit.

Should the local authority determine that a Neighbourhood Plan does require SEA, we must be consulted on the scope to ensure our key environmental issues are addressed. We can also provide baseline information and data.

Should you require any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Ms Caitlin Newby
Planning Adviser

Direct dial [REDACTED]

Direct e-mail [REDACTED]

Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7AR.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
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